

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----024012 201620Z /70

P R 201548Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9516
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 17411

EXDIS

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: EC PARM UK
SUBJECT: CALLAGHAN'S OCTOBER 18 TALKS IN BONN

1. REG HIBBERT, DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY IN THE FCO, BRIEFED
DCM OCTOBER 20 ON CALLAGHAN'S TALKS ON TUESDAY IN BONN.
BECAUSE OF THE HIJACKING, AND GERMAN PREOCCUPATION WITH
ITS SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION AND THE SUBSEQUENT SUICIDES,
THE VISIT WAS SHORT ON SUBSTANCE.

2. THERE WERE, HOWEVER, SOME POINTS OF INTEREST.
IN AGREEING ON OFFSET ARRANGEMENTS (REPORTED SEPTTEL)
AND OPENING THE WAY FOR LOCATING THE JET SITE AT CULHAM,
THE TWO SIDES REMOVED FROM THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP
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WHAT HIBBERT DESCRIBED AS "DREARY AND TIRESOME DIFFER-
ENCES". HE STRONGLY DENIED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A JET/
ARTICLE 131 DEAL MADE IN BONN, OR THAT THERE WAS ANY
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AGREEMENTS ON OFFSET AND JET.
THESE ISSUES HAD BEEN TREATED ON THEIR MERITS.

3. IN CONNECTION WITH THE JET, SCHMIDT WAS INTENT ON

ENSURING THAT DECISION NOT TO LOCATE IN FRG WOULD NOT BE READ BY EUROPEAN PUBLIC AS LACK OF FAITH BY EC IN FEDERAL REPUBLIC'S DEPENDABILITY, NOR BE USED, HIBBERT SAID, TO CONCLUDE "THAT THIS WAS TOO DANGEROUS A TOY FOR GERMANY." THEREFORE, FORMULA WILL BE WORKED OUT BY NINE THAT MAKES CLEAR THAT ALTHOUGH FRG DID NOT GET JET, IT WAS PERFECTLY ENTITLED TO IT AND IF SECOND STAGE IN PROJECT IS NECESSARY, GERMANS WILL BE FIRST IN LINE.

4. THE CALLAGHAN LETTER TO THE LABOR PARTY NATIONAL EXECUTIVE CAME UP BRIEFLY WITH SCHMIDT AND THE PRIME MINISTER REPEATED HIS JUDGMENT THAT THE UK'S PARTNERS SHOULD "BE JOLLY GRATEFUL FOR IT." WHEN ASKED HOW HMG INTENDED TO FOLLOW UP ON CALLAGHAN'S SIX POINTS IN THE LETTER, HIBBERT OBSERVED HE WAS BEING TEMPTED TO TREAD ON TRICKY GROUND. HE THEN DID. HE COMMENTED THAT THE TASK WAS TO MAINTAIN THE POLITICAL ADVANTAGE OF LETTER WITHIN THE LABOR PARTY THROUGH THE ATTEMPT--HE FIRST SAID PRETENSE--AT EC REFORM WHILE AT THE SAME TIME NOT "SHATTERING THE NERVES" OF THE UK'S PARTNERS. IT WAS, HIBBERT ADMITTED, A DELICATE BALANCE.

5. THE MBFR TANK ARMY MODIFICATION ISSUE WAS SETTLED.

6. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT THE NEUTRON BOMB HAD BEEN UNFORTUNATELY NAMED, THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL MILITARILY, CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----023975 201622Z /70

P R 201548Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9517
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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AND THAT IT PRESENTED PUBLIC PRESENTATION DIFFICULTIES.

7. GENSCHER SAID HE THOUGHT THE BREZHNEV VISIT TO BONN
WOULD ONLY BE RESOLVED AFTER BREZHNEV KNOWS IF AND WHEN
HE IS GOING TO WASHINGTON.

8. CALLAGHAN URGED SCHMIDT TO TAKE GREATER REFLATIONARY
MEASURES AS CALLED FOR AT THE DOWNING STREET SUMMIT.
ON TRADE, THE PM CALLED FOR PRESSURES ON THE JAPANESE.
CALLAGHAN SAID HE WAS AGAINST PROTECTIONISM BUT MIGHT
HAVE TO RESORT TO RESTRICTIONS TO PROTECT CERTAIN
BRITISH INDUSTRIES.

9. COMMENT: THE TRIP WAS A SUCCESS. RELATIONS BETWEEN
THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE GOOD AT THE MOMENT, NOT LEAST
BECAUSE OF THE PERSONAL TIES BETWEEN CALLAGHAN AND
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SCHMIDT. IN FACT, SOME LONG TIME OBSERVERS OF THE FRG-
UK SCENE BELIEVE THEIR RELATIONSHIP IS CLOSER THAN
BETWEEN ANY TWO PREVIOUS LEADERS OF THE COUNTRIES.
IT IS CERTAINLY TRUE THAT WHEN IMPORTANT TRANSATLANTIC
AND EUROPEAN ISSUES ARISE, CALLAGHAN WILL BE HEAVILY
INFLUENCED BY WHAT HELMUT SCHMIDT THINKS.

BREWSTER

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